

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-21-02

November 8, 2002

The following is offered in response to your letter dated November 5, 2002 in which you seek a formal interpretation of the requirements of Section 1103.1 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Are kennels and dog runs associated with a veterinarian's office required to be on an accessible route and accessible to persons with disabilities?

Answer: Yes, assuming they are not located on the second floor or in the basement of the veterinarian's office. Section 1103.1 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code states, in part, that "all buildings and structures, including their associated sites and facilities, shall be accessible to persons with physical disabilities". Specific exceptions are then listed. Of the nine exceptions listed to this requirement, none specifically apply to kennels and dog runs, so unless another of the exceptions applies, they must be designed to be accessible. Exceptions six (for Use Group B of any height) and eight (for all Use Groups, three stories or less in height) allow floors above and below the street floor to be inaccessible as long as the street floor is accessible and the floors above or below the street floor are less than 3000 square feet total gross area. The kennels and dog runs would therefore be required to be accessible if located on the street floor, but not if above or below the street floor and meeting the requirements of exceptions six or eight. This applies whether the kennels and dog runs are attached to the veterinarian's office or in a separate structure on the site.